

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 29, Number 9

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, January 20, 1966

GHI Moving Ahead on Plans for New Homes

by Sid Kastner

The home building program of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. will soon be getting underway with the initial meeting with an architect, according to discussions at the GHI board meeting Thursday, Jan. 13. Some matters bearing on city - GHI relations were also brought up: notably the city's reaction to a recent GHI resolution on the school site question, and a long-standing problem about assignment of parking spaces in courts.

The architect who will be providing the plans for the homes has advised that one basic plan, with minor variations, would suffice for all four. This is expected to lower the cost substantially and was favored by most of the directors. Director Norman Weyel expressed the viewpoint of the ad hoc committee that first a meeting should be held with the architect, then another one with the four families involved. Director John O'Reilly favored the reverse order, which he thought would be fairer to the architect. Gordon Allen, from the floor, felt it would be useful to have the architect in the discussions from the beginning. A motion by director Gerry Gough was then passed to have all three parties - committee, architect, owners - meet together for initial talks.

Assigned Court Parking

The long-standing practice of city-assigned parking in courts has come under criticism by the city's solicitor, who has advised city council that it would not be legal even if the city owned the land - which it does not. At present parking is assigned in courts where there is at least one space per house, and if at least 51% of the court residents favor it. The city has notified GHI that it plans to repeal the parking ordinance, so that GHI is once again faced with the question of whether to police its own areas, dedicate the areas to the city, or find other alternatives. From the floor, Miss Katherine Keene and Seymour Kaplan stressed the importance of finding a solution to the problem, the former from the standpoint of member relations and the latter from the position that GHI land should be clearly separated from the city's. The matter was assigned to a special committee for the whole, which is also considering other city-GHI questions; the committee will meet Jan. 25.

GHI School Resolution

Director Jim Smith noted that the city seemed to have overreacted to GHI's recent resolution calling for unconditional rejection of parcel 2 as a high school site. GHI Manager Roy Breashears communicated a request from President Charles Schwan asking the board to put this apparent disagreement on the agenda for discussion.

Other Items Considered

The city has given GHI an advance copy of a resolution on special assessments, which the city proposes to pass. The resolution is in response to a request by GHI for a uniform policy on such assessments growing out of the 100% assessment levied on GHI recently for the Hillside cut-through to Lakewood subdivision. O'Reilly reported that the "special committee for the whole" had not yet met to review the resolution. On a motion by Gough the special committee will meet Jan. 25 to take it up.

Bids for employee Group Health Insurance policies were opened by Breashears. They were divided into two classes, those basing premiums on national rates and those basing premiums on local group rates. The former were favored by Breashears as being less subject to change, even though somewhat higher. O'Reilly felt however that the de-

cision was not clearcut and moved to refer all the bids to the Finance committee for a careful evaluation.

The recently passed moratorium on rezoning applications, by the District Council, has affected GHI's application with respect to land near the North End School, on which townhouses are proposed. O'Reilly suggested that counsel Alfred Ginsberg might be asked to give an opinion as to whether GHI should challenge the recent ruling by the Park and Planning Commission, to the effect that GHI must apply for rezoning. It was felt by the board that there was justification now for such a challenge.

CFPG To Circulate Petition

The Steering Committee of the Citizens For a Planned Greenbelt endorsed a proposal suggested at Monday night's City Council meeting to circulate petitions protesting the decision of the Prince Georges County Board of Education to locate a senior high school on land between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and property of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. The only road access to this site is through Northway extended (See petition elsewhere in paper.) Volunteers (individuals, organizations, etc.) are needed to assist in the drive. Please call, 474-6666, 345-8975, 474-6060.

The next meeting of the CFPG Steering Committee will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The public is invited.

Peace In Vietnam Meeting

The Greenbelt Committee for Peace in Vietnam will hold a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 8 p.m., at 7-F Crescent Road, to plan for the upcoming lecture.

High Rise Apt. for Lake Area Violates Agreement, City Says

Following recommendations by City Manager James Giese, the council instructed the city solicitor this week to begin legal action, in order to enforce an agreement entered into by Charles Bresler almost 4 years ago to deed 3.33 acres to the city. Giese stated that the possibility of construction of high rise apartments nearby might place the city's claim on the land in jeopardy.

According to Giese, Bresler gave in April 1962 a written agreement to donate to the city for parkland purposes 3.33 acres of parcel B in Charlestowne village. In return, the city supported Bresler in obtaining the rezoning required for the Charlestowne village townhouse development, with the understanding that the density would be kept to 7 units per acre, allowing 350 units in all for the development.

In June 1965, Bresler secured commitment for a \$1,725,000 mortgage loan by the Aetna Life Insurance company for a proposed 8-story apartment building containing 178 dwelling units. At that time Bresler advised the News-Review that such plans were only tentative and preliminary and had been submitted to Aetna solely as the basis for securing future commitment for financing the balance of the units scheduled for Charlestowne Village. Final plans, he said, will be dependent on many factors such as the adoption of the master plan location of senior high school and zoning.

Giese noted, on December 30,

Plans for New Art Class And Photography Show

Two new classes are being scheduled by the Greenbelt Arts Guild, to start about Feb. 1. One will be an extension of the highly successful course for young people being conducted by Jo Scheibel on Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The progress of this group may be gauged by viewing the exhibition of their work on display at Twin Pines starting this Saturday. There will be a few openings for new students of the 10-14 age bracket in the new series, and interested parents should contact the instructor at 474-5041.

For the second class, a 10-week course in water colors is contemplated. If sufficient interest in this medium is evidenced, an experienced water-color instructor will be provided. Those who wish to enroll in such a course should contact the club secretary, Rose Collins, at 474-2948, or leave an application at Twin Pines.

In keeping with the Guild's desire to promote other related activities, a Photography Show is being planned. Bill Collins will act as chairman for the exhibition, and would like those interested in helping with or having exhibits in such a show to phone him as soon as possible at 474-2941.

The Art Guild's monthly critique will be held at the youth center next Wednesday, Jan. 26 with Jim Forbes officiating. Members and friends are invited to bring in a painting for criticism.

Art Exhibit At Twin Pines

On display this week at Twin Pines is an exhibition of artwork in various media by junior members of the Greenbelt Arts and Crafts Guild. Most of the work was done this winter at 10 Saturday classes for youngsters 9 to 13 years old, sponsored by the Guild and taught by Jo Scheibel. The next series of classes will start in February.

The largest painting in the show, a landscape mural, is the combined efforts of the members of the class.

Council Pledges All-out Effort To Change School Locations

by Rita Fisher

At a meeting well attended by the citizenry of Greenbelt, the City Council passed a resolution Jan. 17 to make an all-out effort to change the location of the sites chosen by the County Board of Education for the new elementary, junior high and high schools. The Board favors grouping them in an area bounded by Hamilton Place, Northway, Ridge Road, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. (See map on page 4)

Councilman Francis White moved that "Council endorse a Resolution that the General Assembly of the State of Maryland urge the Prince Georges County School Board to reconsider the site location for a senior high school in Greenbelt, Maryland. Further, that the Prince Georges County Delegation request the school board to review again the concerns and desires of the citizens of Greenbelt for the lakeside high school location as demonstrated by the willingness of the city to share in the total program of site acquisition and the strong defense displayed by the citizenry as regards their Master Plan and further, that the City Solicitor prepare this proposal in proper legal form for release to the County Delegation."

The Resolution was passed by a 4-1 vote with the dissenting vote being cast by Dave Champion. He felt further harassment of the Board of Education would be unfruitful and stated that he knew for a fact that three of the seven-member board "would never change their minds."

Mayor Edgar Smith, commenting that "time is running out", recommended the following courses of action which will be taken: a letter to the State Superintendent of Schools asking him to take into consideration the feelings of the city of Greenbelt towards the school locations now being proposed; petitions to the School Board by local citizens; press releases to the Metropolitan newspapers; a request for a joint meeting with the County Commissioners, County Delegation and the School Board; and a legal ruling from the City Solicitor and the County Attorney regarding the authority of the County Commissioners to reverse the decision of the School Board on the selection of school sites.

Mayor Smith further stated during the meeting that there will be problems arising if the school site is definitely located on Parcel 2 such as roads, sidewalks and increased city traffic.

Smith added that he is still hopeful that a perimeter road could be built. The perimeter road designated by Park and Planning would, under present plans, have gone through the area set up for schools. The perimeter road proposed by Greenbelt's Master Plan would not; it would skirt the school area to join the NASA interchange on the Parkway.

Mrs. Bernice Kastner, speaking as a parent of elementary school

ICE ON THE LAKE ISN'T SAFE YET

City Manager James K. Giese warned parents that the ice on Greenbelt lake is still considered dangerous although it is "almost at the point of being safe for skating," he added. Many spots along the shoreline are still soft, since they cover natural springs. Citizens are asked to telephone the Recreation Department before skating on the lake, to make sure the ice is safe. In all cases, skaters are urged to use caution.

In a memorandum to council, Giese termed the action "a complete and utter disregard on the part of the developer for commitments and agreements he made with the City Council of Greenbelt."

Giese also noted that the new development would prevent the dedication of land for the extension of Lakecrest drive. He recommended that an inquiry be directed to the Park and Planning Commission to find why the developer has been permitted to subdivide the land without dedicating an extension of Lakecrest drive, even though such an extension has been included in all of the commission's master plans since 1957.

children, cited the hazardous condition that would exist with an elementary school adjacent to a high school. With many high school students driving their cars back and forth to school each day, she said, the lives of the younger children would be imperiled. Most of the youngsters will be walking to school. Mrs. Kastner stated that she would be willing to get up a petition of protest. George Jones, who said he was acting as a spokesman for parents of children attending St. Hugh's, stated that he would back such a petition.

Arthur Goldstein queried the Council as to what was being done by County Commissioner Frank Lastner who is a resident of Greenbelt. Mayor Smith answered that question by stating that at a meeting held in December with the GHI Board and City Council, Commissioner Lastner stated that he would do what he could to affect a change in the site.

Councilman White commented that a certain amount of "friendly political persuasion" has been used on our elected officials in the County. Manager Giese stated that the School Board has indicated that it has received a considerable amount of pressure from certain members of the County Delegation and some County Commissioners.

In answer to another query from a citizen at the meeting, Mayor Edgar Smith said that he would welcome the support of any political organizations in the school site fight.

Simon Pristoop announced at Council meeting, as a point of information relative to the matter being discussed, that Prince Georges County Delegation Chairman Royal Hart, Bi-County Delegation Chairman Ray McDonough and State Senator Fred Wineland, have been invited to serve as a panel for informal discussion on planning zoning legislation for the 1966 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. in the County Service Building in Hyattsville, room 217.

COUNCIL TIDBITS

Three outdated ordinances have been repealed by City Council. The first one dealt with rules and regulations for the operation of a Greenbelt Hospital. Reason for the repeal: we no longer have a hospital. The second ordinance dealt with the reporting of all contagious diseases to the Public Health Officer. Reason: we no longer have a Public Health Officer. The third outdated ordinance concerns rules and regulations for the opening of new roads, sidewalks, etc. This ordinance was originally put into effect on June 30, 1946. Reason: this ordinance has been superseded by a new ordinance #449 dealing with city roads.

City Council has selected the architectural firm of Walton and Madden, Riverdale, Maryland to prepare the plans and specifications for a new Municipal Service Building.

The Greenbelt Businessmen's Association has requested assistance from City Council in getting the school bus stop moved from the area in front of the Center to the North parking lot. In a letter to Council, President Henry Davis stated that a certain amount of damage has been done to the laundromat and the Post Office by youngsters who wait in these establishments for the arrival of the buses.

Council recommended that the City Manager look into the matter for his comments, the comments of the School Board, all school principals involved, and the police. The manager was directed to submit a report and recommendations at the next Council meeting.

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A New Threat

A preview of what the owners of Parcel 15 have in mind for this site if a senior high school is not located on it was indicated to city council on Monday night. A building permit has been issued to the developer (Charles Bresler and Associates) to construct an 8-story high-rise apartment building, containing 178 units, on land next to parcel 15 (Parcel B of Charlestowne Village).

When the city supported R-18 zoning for this land, it signed a covenant with Bresler to restrict the density of the tract to 7 units per acre. Bresler also agreed to donate to the city 3.3 acres as parkland. So far as the city can determine, the high-rise apartments would violate the covenant if the 3.3 acres are excluded from the calculations of density. Accordingly, the city council has decided to proceed with legal action to require the dedication of the 3.3 acres.

It is interesting to note that at the time the *News Review* disclosed that financing had been secured for the high-rise apartments (July 8, 1965), Bresler stated that he had no plans for proceeding with the development of the area until final decisions are made with respect to the senior high school site.

It is obvious that now residents of the western part of town must brace themselves for the high-rise apartment crisis, just as residents in the eastern part of town have done with respect to the location of a senior high school on parcel 2.

Another Crippling Blow To the Editor:

On January 11 the county board of education and the developer Charles Bresler struck another crippling blow at Greenbelt's Master Plan. Bresler, in flagrant disregard of that plan and the wishes of nearly all Greenbelt citizens, moved to compound even further the serious problems which a senior high school in his land-locked property on parcel 2 would create.

His latest plans for the schools, with modifications made by the board of education, relocate the schools in such a way that they would block the perimeter road, unless a connection is made with the NASA interchange.

The obvious results of last week's actions—if implemented—would be to further seriously undercut the city's master plan. Traffic circulation was the most difficult problem encountered by the city's Advisory Planning Board and professional planner. The perimeter road was to be a vital link in a system designed to handle modest traffic generated by the development of parcels 1 and 2.

The elimination of the perimeter road would now undo everything our planners did and foist upon this community the unwelcome reality of the original Area 13 plan. Yes, Ridge Road, Northway, Southway, and possibly Crescent would have to be widened to four lanes, destroying the beauty of adjoining properties and scuttling Greenbelt's excellent safety record.

The board also ignored the supposedly obvious fact that Greenbelt itself is responsible for the county receiving \$4½ million dollars from the Federal government to build this school. In other words, our citizenry is providing the county with approximately nine times as much money as the desired lake site would cost. Yet, the school board takes the peculiar position that their benefactors should have no voice in where this money is spent.

Chairman W. Carroll Beatty of the school board never did answer Elaine Skolnik's question as to whether the board had fully calculated all costs associated with developing the respective school sites. Board member Thomas Hicks never did answer questions as to how the elimination of a perimeter road would affect the core of Greenbelt. The evasive answers can only lead one to the conclusion that such vital aspects were never really considered.

Must we cannibalize original Greenbelt to spawn unwieldy, unplanned, and unwanted development, solely for the convenience and profit of the developer?

First Aid Class Starting

There will be a Standard First Aid Class starting on Feb. 1 for the general public. This class will be held at the Greenbelt Firehouse, 125 Crescent Rd., starting at 8 p.m. It will greatly assist your instructor, Ernest P. Varda, if you would enroll in advance. You can do this

by calling either the Greenbelt Firehouse 474-5511 or the residence of Varda, 474-2397. There is no charge for the class. The class will be held for two hours each Tuesday night for a period of five weeks. Upon successful completion a ARC Standard First Aid Card will be issued.

Musical Evening at JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Prince Georges County will have a meeting on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Thomas H. Heiman will entertain with "An Evening In Song." He has appeared on the Arena Stage, Washington Theatre Club, and Theatre Lobby.

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Rev. Kenneth Wyatt, Minister

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10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship.
Church school infants through grade 4.
11:45 a.m. - Coffee Hour Fellowship
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Annual Report

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	1965	1964
Our Income totaled	\$ 76,004	\$ 63,024
Our Expenses were	28,991	25,966
Net Income was	47,013	37,058
We Paid in Dividends	42,385	32,542
We Added to Reserves	4,628	4,516

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

	December 31 1965	1964
ASSETS:		
Cash	\$ 22,224	\$ 40,556
Loans to Members	1,034,486	813,755
Furniture & Equipment	1,009	1,370
Total	\$1,057,719	\$855,681
LIABILITIES & RESERVES:		
Members' Savings	\$ 986,899	\$814,162
Taxes Payable	302	259
Borrowed Money	25,000	
Reserves	45,518	41,260
Total	\$1,057,719	\$855,681

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The Prince Georges Symphonic Assn. will hold an organizational meeting of county women at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Holiday Inn Rtes. 301 and 50, Bowie. The group's major effort will be in support of the recently organized Prince Georges Civic Orchestra.

Any interested women are urged to attend.



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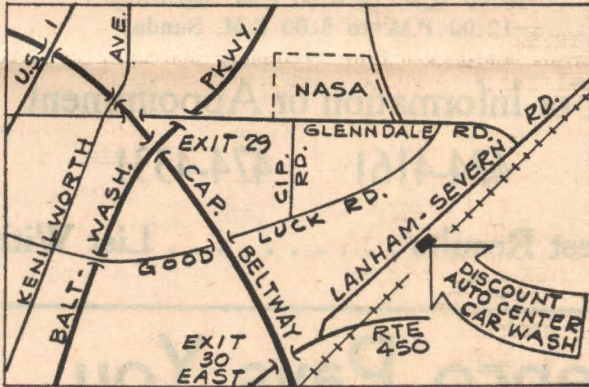
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\$.97 Fifth and up

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We are offering an interesting basic course in *Grapho-Analysis* — the science to understand others thru their handwriting. A small group will be formed by a certified Graphoanalyst for 1 evening hour a week for 8 sessions — near Centerway.

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For Information or Appointment

474-4161 474-4331

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Daytime Crafts

Another session of Daytime Adult Crafts is being formed. Projects will include ceramics and copper enameling. For information, please contact the Recreation Department.

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Catholic Information Classes

A Catholic Information Class is now being formed for all non-Catholics and Catholics interested

in finding out more about the church. Classes and discussions will be held every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. in the basement of St. Hugh's Rectory.

Annual Membership Meeting

Greenbelt Federal

Credit Union

Wednesday, January 26, 1966 at 8:00 p.m.

Co-op Community Room

(Second floor, Consumers Discount Supermarket)

REPORTS, ELECTIONS, DOOR PRIZES

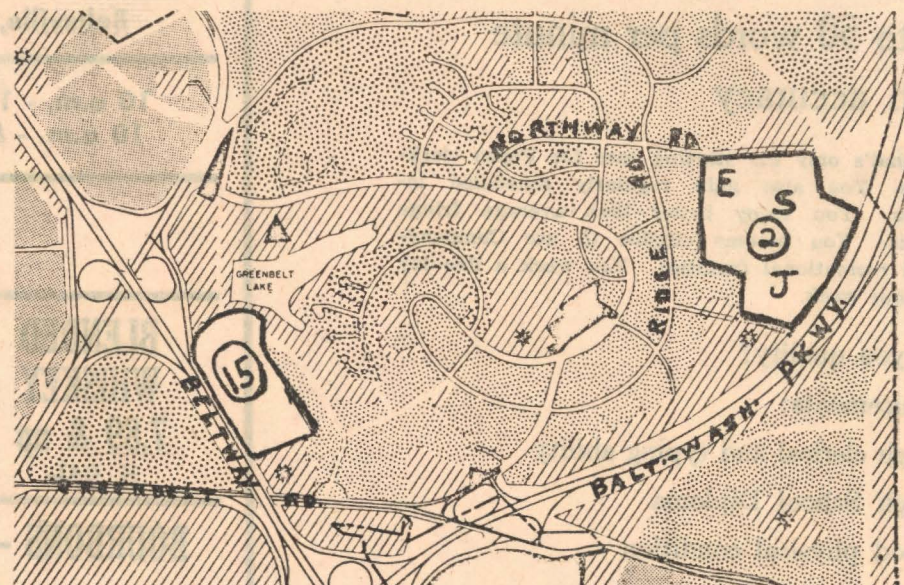
Greenbelt Senior High School Petition

We, the undersigned residents of the city of Greenbelt, do hereby protest the decision of the Prince Georges County Board of Education to locate a senior high school on parcel 2 (land between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and property of Greenbelt Homes, Inc.). The location of a high school on this site is unsatisfactory because of its adverse impact on local traffic conditions and its disruptive effects on the Greenbelt Master Plan. We hereby petition our elected and appointed Federal, State, County, and City officials to take whatever action is needed to have the Board of Education reverse its decision and select the Beltway-Lake site.

This petition will be circulated next week by members of the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt and other civic organizations. Volunteers are needed. Please call 474-6666, 474-6060.

Paid Advertisement

New School Sites For Greenbelt



The numbered items above refer to the two parcels that have been considered for school sites in Greenbelt. Parcel 15 is the site preferred by the city for a senior high school. Parcel 2 is the 58.4-acre site chosen by the County Board of Education. The initials E, S, and J indicate the location of the elementary school, senior high school, and junior high school, respectively.